

Floor Remarks

Congressman Greg Gianforte

“Supporting ICE and Law Enforcement Officials”

July 18, 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership on this issue.

The men and women of ICE work every day to make our country and our communities safer. They secure our borders. They enforce our laws. They protect our safety. And I stand with them.

America's borders have been too open for too long. Drug cartels, dangerous gangs, and human traffickers exploit our weak borders and bring crime to our Montana communities.

As America and Montana face an epidemic of drug abuse and addiction, ICE agents seized nearly a million pounds of illegal drugs last year, including nearly 2,400 pounds of fentanyl and 7,000 pounds of heroin.

ICE agents arrested more than 127,000 criminal aliens last year. They were charged with weapons offenses, drug crimes, gang-related activity, sexual assault, kidnapping, and murder.

Now, some of my friends across the aisle have called for abolishing ICE. Abolishing ICE is a reckless idea. Abolishing ICE flies in the face of the rule of law. Abolishing ICE would embolden violent criminals, like members of the vicious MS-13 gang, intent on doing us harm and threatening our way of life. Abolishing ICE would jeopardize the safety and security of our Montana communities.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose abolishing ICE.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with ICE agents who are dedicated to make our nation and Montana safer and more secure.

I yield back my time.